UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1996/150
4 April 1996

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 10

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 2 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to enclose the text of a statement made by the official spokesman of the Government of India regarding the unfortunate and tragic abduction and subsequent killing of Mr. Jalil Andrabi, an Advocate of Srinagar in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

I would be grateful if this letter, along with its enclosure, could be circulated as an official document of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Arundhati GHOSE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Text of statement made by the Official Spokesman of the Government of India

1. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the reported statement of the Pakistan Foreign Office alleging that a Kashmir lawyer, Jalil Andrabi, was arrested to prevent him from going to attend the session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and blaming the Government of India for his killing. The Government of India deplores Pakistan's malicious attempts to gain propaganda mileage from this unfortunate and tragic incident.

2. The state government of Jammu and Kashmir and the security forces have categorically denied before the High Court, which is already seized of the matter, any involvement in this incident. A team under a Senior Superintendent of Police is investigating the case.

3. It is notable that incidents of this nature invariably take place in conjunction with international conferences or whenever concrete steps are being taken towards restoring the democratic/political process in the State. As in the past, Pakistani-backed militants have always sought to stage some major incident to gain propaganda mileage for Pakistan and thwart the democratic process. The most recent and latest manifestation of this was the entry of armed militants, allied to the Pakistan-based Amanullah Khan faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, into the Hazratbal Shrine and attempts by them to desecrate it.

4. It is absurd to suggest that the Government of India had any interest in preventing Andrabi from attending the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. It is a matter of record that Andrabi had, in the past, along with his other colleagues, attended meetings of Commission bodies.